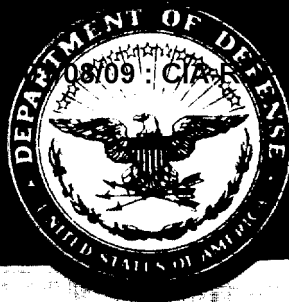


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NEWS RELEASE
PLEASE NOTE DATE



225 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR THE PRESS

February 1, 1961

NO 86-61
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January 31, 1961

The following announcements were issued yesterday at Vandenberg AFB, California regarding SAMOS II:

SAMOS II was successfully launched by the Air Force at 3:23 PM EST today from Vandenberg AFB, California.

The vehicle consists of the ATLAS intercontinental ballistic missile as the booster of first stage and AGENA, a liquid fuel upper stage incorporating the Bell rocket engine.

Today's launch is the second of a series that will continue the research and development phase of the system.

January 31, 1961

Preliminary telemetry reports indicate that the second stage of the Air Force SAMOS II satellite vehicle was fired.

January 31, 1961

The SAMOS II satellite launched at 3:23 PM EST, weighing approximately two tons has gone into orbit according to reports received from tracking stations.

The period of orbit is approximately 95 minutes.

The maximum altitude of orbit is approximately 350 miles and the minimum altitude is 300 miles.

END